

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, lines 22 with the following paragraph:

One important aspect of the present invention is the use of mediator oligonucleotides which hybridize with both the cipher probes and target nucleic acid (see, FIGUREs 1 and 2). A mediator oligonucleotide should be at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 base in length. Each mediator oligonucleotide should contain a region complementary to a cipher (tag probe) sequence. This region should be at least 10, 15, 20, 25 base long at its 3' portion (FIGURE 1) or 5' portion (FIGURE 2). Each mediator oligonucleotide should also contain a region complementary to a nucleic acid target. The region should be at least 10, 15, 20, 25 base long at 5' portion (FIGURE 1) or 3' (FIGURE 2) portion. Methods for selecting optimal probes for gene expression are disclosed in for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,800,992, and 6,040,138, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/718,295 (now abandoned), attorney docket number 3359, U.S. Patent Application docket number 3359 and U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/745,965 (currently pending), attorney docket number 3373.1, all incorporated here by reference for all purposes.

2005 AUG 31 10:38 AM
US PATENT & TRADEMARK
OFFICE

PATENT & TRADEMARK
OFFICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE